



HARVARD

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Harvard is a well preserved rural community with an interesting history extending back to 1732 when the town was incorporated. Throughout its 250 years, the town has been known for a series of unusual sociological and religious experiments. The most well know of these were carried out by Mother Ann Lee, who came to live in Harvard in 1781 and founded a Shaker village, still to be seen today, and Bronson Alcott, who carried out a transcendental experiment in living with his family and friends here in 1843. The farmhouse where the Alcotts lived was called Fruitlands and is now part of the Fruitlands Museum on Prospect Hill.

Residents enjoy the intimacy of a small town, with its Fourth of July parade, Apple Blossom Festival and many other events, the majority of which take place in the vicinity of the historic town common. Another amenity is Bare Hill Pond, a 330-acre lake where swimming, sailing and canoeing lessons are offered in the summer and cross country skiing and skating take place in winter. There are over 2,000 acres of conservation land throughout the town, much of it interconnected to offer walking trails. Acquisition of wetlands, especially along the Bowers Brook greenway has also been a municipal priority.

The school system in Harvard, which is an individual not a regional school district, has the highest rating in Worcester County and is considered the major reason why many families with young children choose to live in Harvard. Bromfield High School graduates are accepted at a variety of prestigious colleges all across the country. A major school building program was completed in 1991, resulting in a new elementary school and an auditorium and other improvements for Bromfield High.

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Harvard had 12,329 residents in 1990. This figure includes the population of Fort Devens that reside in that portion of the Fort that is in Harvard. The Town, however, does not provide any service to this area and thus considers its population to be 5,047.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northcentral Massachusetts, bordered by Ayer and Shirley on the north; Littleton, Boxborough, and Stow on the east; Bolton on the south; and Lancaster on the west. Harvard is 22 miles northeast of Worcester, 31 miles northwest of Boston, and 206 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 26.97 sq. miles

Land Area: 26.36 sq. miles

Population: 12,329

Density: 468 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Clinton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Ayer, Hudson, Shirley, Clinton

Regional Planning Agency

Montachusett

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 456-4100

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1732

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	3,290		
Democrats	709	21.6	%
Republicans	712	21.6	%
Other parties	7	0.2	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,862	56.6	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Harvard town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	5,981	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	5,981	100.0
Male.....	3,319	55.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	364	6.1
Female.....	2,662	44.5	Mexican.....	20	0.3
Under 5 years.....	342	5.7	Puerto Rican.....	10	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	467	7.6	Cuban.....	16	0.3
10 to 14 years.....	537	9.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	318	5.3
15 to 19 years.....	399	5.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	5,617	93.9
20 to 24 years.....	154	2.6	White alone.....	5,199	86.9
25 to 34 years.....	558	9.3	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,207	20.2	Total population.....	5,981	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,246	20.8	In households.....	5,174	86.5
55 to 59 years.....	432	7.2	Householder.....	1,809	30.2
60 to 64 years.....	252	4.2	Spouse.....	1,327	22.2
65 to 74 years.....	264	4.4	Child.....	1,835	30.7
75 to 84 years.....	146	2.4	Own child under 18 years.....	1,558	26.0
85 years and over.....	47	0.8	Other relatives.....	88	1.5
Median age (years).....	40.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	30	0.5
18 years and over.....	4,391	73.4	Nonrelatives.....	115	1.9
Male.....	2,511	42.0	Unmarried partner.....	65	1.1
Female.....	1,880	31.4	In group quarters.....	807	13.5
21 years and over.....	4,277	71.5	Institutionalized population.....	747	12.5
62 years and over.....	591	9.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	60	1.0
65 years and over.....	467	7.6	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	225	3.8	Total households.....	1,809	100.0
Female.....	232	3.9	Family households (families).....	1,494	82.6
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	808	44.7
One race.....	5,914	98.9	Married-couple family.....	1,327	73.4
White.....	5,484	91.7	With own children under 18 years.....	706	39.0
Black or African American.....	269	4.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	124	6.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	10	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	77	4.3
Asian.....	118	2.0	Nonfamily households.....	315	17.4
Asian Indian.....	14	0.2	Householder living alone.....	259	14.3
Chinese.....	61	1.0	Householder 65 years and over.....	77	4.3
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	828	45.8
Japanese.....	7	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	298	16.5
Korean.....	12	0.2	Average household size.....	2.86	(X)
Vietnamese.....	4	0.1	Average family size.....	3.18	(X)
Other Asian ¹	19	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	0.1	Total housing units.....	2,225	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,809	81.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	416	18.7
Samoan.....	3	0.1	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	69	3.1
Some other race.....	30	0.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	67	1.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.8	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	1,809	100.0
White.....	5,548	92.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,638	90.5
Black or African American.....	282	4.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	171	9.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	22	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.96	(X)
Asian.....	158	2.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.91	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	0.1			
Some other race.....	41	0.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The principal highway is State Route 2, the old Mohawk Trail, which runs across northern Massachusetts. State Route 140 and Interstate 190 connect the region to Worcester. The Springfield Terminal Railway line (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallels Route 2 and provides access to the network of intermodal facilities serving central and eastern Massachusetts.

Major Highways

Principal highways are Interstate Route 495, the outer belt around Boston, and State Routes 2, 110, and 111.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available from the neighboring towns of Ayer (travel time: 66-73 min.; no MBTA parking) and Littleton (travel time 55-62 min.; 40 MBTA parking spaces). The Springfield Terminal Railway has a track running through Harvard to Ayer. Contact number for the STRR: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Harvard is not affiliated with a regional transportation authority and has no fixed route bus service.

Other

Minute Man Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility located in Stow, is easily accessible. It has a 1,600'x 50' gravel runway and a 2,743'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Fruitlands Museums

102 Prospect Hill Road

(978) 456-3924

Harvard Historical Society

Still River Road, Still River

(978) 456-8285

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.